

15 AMF involved in accident near Kandahar

Story and photos by
Cpl. Keith A. Kluwe
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KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Fourteen Afghan Militia Force soldiers were injured and one killed June 2 in a head-on motor vehicle collision on Highway 4 between Kandahar and Spin Boldak.

Both trucks involved in the accident were transporting AMF soldiers, according to Capt. Mohammad Ismal, AMF unit commander, who was also injured in the accident.

The injured were transported to the U.S. Army medical facility at Kandahar Air Field for treatment. The one soldier that was killed in the accident was transported to Kandahar mortuary affairs.

“The mass casualty went very well, as far as mass casualties go,” said Capt. Jeff Reibenstein, C Company, 307th Logistical Task Force, commander. “We were here, ready, when they arrived, to do what we were trained to do.”

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Doctors Lt. Col. Clyde Redmond of the 948th Forward Surgical Team and Capt. Alex Ramirez of the Critical Care Aeromedical Transport Team use a portable ultrasound to examine the abdomen of an Afghan Militia Force soldier injured in a head-on motor vehicle collision between Kandahar city and Spin Boldak.

Civil Affairs invests in Parwan's education

By Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Detachment

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan — A crowd of Afghans and Americans gathered around the recently built Qala-o-Sahra Primary School opening here Monday.

The school's opening is the Civil Affairs Team-A Bagram's seventh completed project since their arrival in October. The school cost about \$74,000 dollars, said Army Reserve Maj. Mark Cepiel, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, Utica, N.Y. Construction began on the school April 1 by the Bakhter Construction Company in Kabul.

The project was completely funded by the Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and Civic Action program, which Cepiel said all of his projects are fund by.

Like a lot of Afghanistan's former structures, the school

was destroyed during the Taliban regime, said Cepiel.

Despite it being a dilapidated structure, children still attended the school, which was 70 percent destroyed. Cepiel and his team first assessed the site six months ago. It was a damaged ruin, where children sat on rocks under the open, sunlit roof.

But now, around 1,100 boys and 400 girls will attend the newly refurbished 12-classroom school, said Cepiel. It has bathrooms, sidewalks, heaters and an office. “It is a much needed improvement, said Cepiel.

“This school today looks much different then it did six months ago,” said Cepiel during his speech during the ceremony.

“It's not because of my work. Everyone here today accomplished the work together. Today, Parwan (and) Kapisa are a model of cooperation with the U.S. and coalition forces. What

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



President Bush is greeted Monday by Egyptian President Mubarak.

Bush arrives in Mideast on peace mission

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — President Bush arrived in Egypt on Monday to face one of his chief diplomatic tasks: building support in the Middle East for the U.S.-backed “road map” for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Bush has said he also will use his meeting Tuesday with heads of state from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Bahrain and the Palestinian prime minister to call for a larger crackdown on terrorism in the Arab world.

Wednesday, Bush will travel to Jordan for meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

Monday, before leaving France, where he attended the G-8 summit, Bush said, “My expectations in the Middle East are to call all parties to their responsibilities to achieve peace and make clear that my country will put in as much time as necessary to achieve the vision of two states living side by side in peace.

“I fully understand that this will be a difficult process” that will require international support, he added.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, also attending the Egypt summit, told reporters on his plane en route to Sharm el-Sheikh, “The meeting is important to make sure that the Arab leadership is behind and supportive of the road map and the president’s efforts, and will play their part in assisting the Palestinian Authority in restoring their security organizations and capacity, and speaking out as strongly as I expect the Palestinians to do in denouncing terror and violence and any support that is given to those that practice terror and violence.”

Iran releases four U.S. soldiers held since Sunday

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy’s 5th Fleet in Bahrain is reporting that four U.S. soldiers and four civilians aboard two small civilian contractor boats were recovered Monday in the northern Persian Gulf after several hours in Iranian hands.

All eight of the passengers were found alive, but the two boat captains are being held by Iran.

The boats had left Iraq’s Mina Al-Bakr oil terminal facility Sunday and moved through the Shatt al Arab waterway, which divides Iraq and Iran.

It was bound for the port of Faw to pick up Iraqi South Oil Co. workers and bring them back to the terminal.

U.S. military sources told CNN that the boats entered Iranian waters near the Shatt al Arab, and the crew and passengers were taken at gunpoint and blindfolded by Iranians.

The passengers and crew were taken upriver for 20 minutes, and then were taken off the boats and interrogated hourly throughout the night, the military sources said.

All except the two boat captains were escorted to their boats and allowed to return to Iraq.

Details on why the boats entered Iranian waters were not immediately available.

U.S. official: Congress to get CIA’s Iraq WMD report

WASHINGTON — A U.S. intelligence official said Monday that the CIA will “provide shortly” to Congress the “underlying intelligence which was the basis” for Secretary of State Colin Powell’s pre-war presentation to the United Nations on Iraq’s alleged weapons of mass destruction.

That same source also was the basis for the National Intelligence Estimate, the CIA’s overall classified report on Iraq’s WMD program.

The official said the CIA will cooperate fully with a request by Republican Sen. John Warner of Virginia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and provide “detailed”

information on the intelligence that led to the agency’s “assessment” of Iraq’s weapons program.

Contrary to a Time magazine report, the CIA will not produce “a round of fresh evidence” for Congress, this official said.

U.S. claims have been called into question by numerous lawmakers, who complain that no proof of weapons of mass destruction has been found in Iraq.

Their alleged existence served as the central U.S. argument for war.

“This wasn’t material I was making up, it came from the intelligence community,” Powell said Monday of his presentation to the United Nations on February 5.

“The case we put forward on the fifth of February reflected an effort on our part to distill down the huge volume of material on weapons of mass destruction...There was a lot of additional information that was very solid and substantiated that I didn’t use because I didn’t have time to use it all, and anything that we weren’t totally comfortable with, we didn’t use.”

Peterson case judge is asked to punish prosecutors

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — An attorney for Scott Peterson asked a judge Monday to punish prosecutors — possibly by removing them from the case — for eavesdropping on phone calls between the accused killer and his lawyers.

Peterson’s lawyer Mark Geragos, in a motion filed with the judge in the case, also urges that evidence obtained through wiretaps of the fertilizer salesman’s phones be suppressed and that defense attorneys be allowed to question Stanislaus County District Attorney’s Office investigators.

Geragos also suggested in the motion that the “grave prosecutorial misconduct” of intercepting privileged communications between a defendant and his attorneys could be grounds for dismissing the charges.

Peterson, 30, is accused of killing his wife, Laci, and unborn son, Conner, who disappeared from their Modesto home on Christmas Eve and washed out of the San Francisco Bay in April.

U.S. and coalition forces celebrate Italian Republic Day

Story and photo by
Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — For many U.S. and coalition troops deployed here, June 2 is just another duty day in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. However, for the Italian forces, Monday marked Italy's 57th year as a republic.

In honor of Italian Republic Day, U.S. and coalition forces gathered around a television set to watch the Italian Day parade in Rome, to converse and enjoy some traditional Italian refreshments.

"Every year in Italy, we celebrate June 2 as the first day our government switched from a monarchy to a republic in 1946," said Italian 1st Lt. Igor Piani, public information officer, Nibbio Task Force, Italian Army. "Due to the nature of our operation, we couldn't have as big a party here as we would back at home, but we still wanted to do something to honor our tradition."

Honoring the tradition began early in the day with the raising of the Italian flag.

"We raise and lower the flag everyday just like the U.S. forces, but today our commander read our president's speech in honor of our holiday while the flag flew overhead," said Piani. "It was a good thing. Not only to commemorate our holiday, but to remind our soldiers of why we are here."

Perhaps an unusual twist to the yearly



A few Italian soldiers put the finishing touches on the Italian Republic Day celebration refreshments.

celebration was inviting U.S. and other coalition forces to join in the festivities.

Maj. Gen. John Vines, commander, Combined Joint Task Force-180, Victor Jackovich, U.S. ambassador, and Capt. Floyd Cuzick, commander Headquarters and Headquarters Company, CTJF-180, were some of the VIPs invited to the celebration.

"It's good that the Italians can celebrate their holiday here in theater with soldiers of other nations," said Cuzick. "This is something similar to how we would celebrate our Fourth of July holiday so I can appreciate what they are doing."

According to the Italian commander, inviting the U.S. troops to partake in the celebration was a way of thanking them for everything they've done.

"Fifty years ago, the U.S. forces played a big part in making Italy a republic so it's only right that we share our holiday with them," said Brigadier Gen. Giorgio Battisti, commander, Nibbio Task Force, Italian Army. "Our president fought side by side with U.S. troops during World War II, so this celebration symbolizes our bond between our troops and the U.S. soldiers of today in support of present day operations."



Photo by Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

Afghan children attend the Qala-o-Sahra Primary School's opening ceremony here Monday. White headaddresses and black dresses are traditional wear for Afghan school girls.

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we have done here today will plant the seed which will grow throughout Parwan."

The improvement boosts what Cepiel said is his team's main goal. "We feel education is important to help Afghanistan learn again so they can help themselves."

Not only is it satisfying for Cepiel to see Afghanistan build on its education, but to know it is a project his team had the chance to see from start to finish is even more rewarding, he said.

"What's gratifying is this school is one of the projects that we started," he said. The team also focuses on building wells and bridges in all of Kapisa and Parwan province.

In the coming months, approximately 50 engineers on staff will come to Bagram to help in constructing Afghanistan's much needed schools and wells, said Cepiel. This way, more construction can be completed faster.

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The injured AMF soldiers sustained contusions, fractures, lacerations and other blunt force trauma. The only difficulty with treating so many Afghan patients was the language barrier.

"Civil Affairs provided all the interpreters they had on base," Reibenstein said, "so we were able to get past the language barrier."

Two AMF soldiers will be medically evacuated to the Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base, according to Spc. Martin Ortiz, the task force's patient administration and MEDEVAC clerk.

One of the patients flown to Bagram sustained a head and neck injury and a broken arm. The other has a closed head injury. Both are being moved because the treatment of their injuries requires a higher level of care.

Four other AMF soldiers were admitted to the medical facility here and eight were released.

Litter bearers from outside of the medical unit here were called to support the mass casualty. Combat medics and physician assistants from some of the line units, as well as medics from the National Guard engineering unit, also provided treatment.



307th Logistic Task Force combat medic Sgt. Andre Emmanuel administers local anesthetic to the head of an Afghan Militia Force soldier injured in a head-on motor vehicle accident, before suturing the laceration closed.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Unfaithful."
"Unfaithful" centers on Diane Lane and Richard Gere as a couple living in the New York city suburbs whose marriage goes dangerously awry when the wife indulges in an adulterous fling.

Tomorrow's movie will be "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
Bagram:	Dust H: 93F L: 61F	Partly cloudy H: 93F L: 62F
Kandahar:	Haze H: 104F L: 70F	Haze H: 104F L: 70F
Kabul:	Dust H: 91F L: 61F	Partly cloudy H: 93F L: 59F
Uzbekistan:	Sunny H: 95F L: 60F	Partly cloudy H: 98F L: 59F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

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Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 11th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

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In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 11th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Can anyone stop Serena?

PARIS — Ai Sugiyama, eyes wide, kicks at the clay along the baseline of Court Suzanne Lenglen. Her slumping body language suggests she is already out of her match with Serena Williams but, oddly enough, the reverse is true. Sugiyama has just broken Williams with a delicate backhand volley and is actually two points from a 5-2 lead in the first set of their Round of 16 match at the French Open.

Williams misses her first serve at 30-all and she contemplates her Wilson racket, takes a deep breath and blasts a serve that bites down hard, into the outside corner of the box. All Sugiyama can do is lunge and dump a weak forehand into the net. Another big serve and Williams escapes with the game.

Serving to go up 5-3, Sugiyama is hanging in there at 15-30, when Williams seems to find another level. In a bruising, alley-to-alley rally, Williams works Sugiyama into an awkward position, then pounces like a cheetah. She sprints to net and with a gruesome bellow — *annnnnghhhh!* — knocks off a swinging forehand volley that somehow seems more frightening than the scream itself.

Sugiyama meekly double faults — for the sixth time under duress. The scoreboard says the match is even, but it is effectively over. Cause and Effect. Even when Serena Williams is behind — especially when she is behind — she inspires shock and, frankly, awe in her opponents.

“I was nervous,” Sugiyama explained later. “I knew (on) second serve, I knew she’s going to attack, so I’m trying to do too much, then thinking too much, then it’s kind of slow and kind of too much spin on it.”

Williams is the No. 1 player in the world and, even in a modest tournament in, say, Rome or Charleston, her presence is powerful and foreboding. But in the crucible of a Grand Slam, she becomes absolutely ruthless.

“Two weeks ago in Rome, she was looking all over the place between points, not really all that focused,” said ESPN analyst Mary Joe Fernandez, one of only four women to have a winning record against Williams. “Here, she goes right to the racket on every point.

“The players say her focus is much greater in the Slams, she’s much quieter in the locker room.”



Serena Williams has won 32 consecutive matches at the Slams.

And for those players trying to beat her, that’s a bad thing.

Williams is now three matches from winning her fifth consecutive Grand Slam singles title, something only Martina Navratilova and Steffi Graf have done. That’s a fairly staggering streak of 32 consecutive matches. The record is 45 consecutive Grand Slam match victories, achieved by Navratilova, who won Wimbledon in 1983 then rolled to six straight titles before losing in the semifinals of the 1984 Australian Open. Graf actually won 45 consecutive Grand Slam singles matches, between 1995-97, but missed the Australian Open in both 1995 and 1996. The streak ended when she lost to Amanda Coetzer in the fourth round of the 1997 Australian Open. Williams, if she keeps winning, could break Navratilova’s record in the round of 16 at the U.S. Open.

Williams, 21, has beaten her sister Venus in the past four Grand Slam finals but the streak includes a veritable Who’s Who of victims: Kim Clijsters, Jennifer Capriati, Lindsay Davenport and Amelie Mauresmo.

Roddick to work with Gilbert for Wimbledon

Andy Roddick has split with coach Tarik Benhabiles days after losing in the first round of the French Open and will reportedly work with Andre Agassi’s longtime coach Brad Gilbert, at least temporarily.

“I credit Tarik with my success,” Roddick said on his Web site. “It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have him as a coach. Tarik has steered me through the amateur rankings and to my current level of professional tennis. He has been my mentor both on court and off.”

Roddick hasn’t set up a permanent relationship yet with Gilbert, who recently told ESPN that if the right call came he would consider it.

“I don’t think the decision has been made to move forward with a new, permanent coach,” Roddick’s agent Ken Meyerson told the International Herald Tribune. “I’m glad Brad has agreed to work with Andy the next three weeks.”

Last week after losing in the first round of the French Open for the second consecutive year, Roddick addressed the issue of a coaching change.

“Every time I lose, it’s a coaching change,” Roddick complained. “I love it. You guys just won’t quit.

“No, I mean, my coach didn’t lose the match. He’s smart. I’m the one losing the matches. We’ve been together for four years; he’s the perfect fit. But there’s not much you can do from the stands when your player’s playing like crap.”

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Roddick has won six ATP titles but has failed to take the next step by winning in a major. Roddick's best showing came at this year's Australian Open where he advanced to the semifinals before losing to Rainer Schuettler. He also has reached the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open the past two years. Last year, Roddick reached the third round at Wimbledon before losing to Goran Ivanisevic.

Brad Gilbert was in London and not immediately available for comment.



Kenny Perry is no Jack Nicklaus, but that doesn't mean he can't make some noise at the U.S. Open in two weeks.

Perry prevails at Memorial for second straight dominating win

DUBLIN, Ohio — Exhausted from the best two weeks of his career, Kenny Perry settled into a chair next to tournament host Jack Nicklaus, winner of 18 majors and 73 victories on the PGA Tour.

"I don't know how you did it," Perry told him.

Perry certainly can't explain his own exploits, the latest coming Sunday at the Memorial when he ran away from the field and almost ran out of gas, closing with an even-par 72 for a two-stroke victory over Lee Janzen.

It was the first time in his career that the 42-year-old Perry has won more than once in a season — back-to-back, no less, at two of the most prestigious stops on the PGA Tour.

He dismantled the field at Hogan's Alley.

He buried an even stronger collection of players on the course Nicklaus built.

"This is the time of my life," Perry said. "I've never played golf like this."

One week after a record-setting victory at Colonial, Perry played perfect golf for nine holes to build a five-stroke lead at Muirfield Village, and three straight bogeys at the end only made it look close.

The runner-up was Janzen, a two-time U.S. Open champion. Masters champion Mike Weir shot 65 and finished third. Another shot behind was Grand Slam champion Tiger Woods and

Vijay Singh, winner of two majors.

"We had a strong field," Perry said. "That excites me to beat the best."

Perry joined Nicklaus, Woods, Greg Norman and Hale Irwin as the only multiple winners at the Memorial. He also won in 1991.

Woods, a three-time winner at Muirfield Village, had four birdies and an eagle on the back nine and closed with a 7-under 65. He tied for fourth in his final tournament before the U.S. Open.

No one was going to catch Perry.

He pulled away with four birdies on the front nine and stretched his lead to as many as six shots. Janzen never got close until the end.

After making only two bogeys over the first 66 holes, Perry finished with five bogeys and a birdie. He was just trying to get to the clubhouse and collect another trophy.

"About 13, it hit me," Perry said. "I just got flat, started stroking it terrible. Thank goodness I had a lead, and Lee wasn't making anything."

Perry finished at 13-under 275 and earned \$900,000 for the second straight week. He moved up to No. 5 on the PGA Tour money list with over \$2.5 million, a career-best. He could move into the top 10 when the World Ranking is released Monday.

"I knew I didn't have the talent as some of these other guys, but I always felt like I had the heart, the soul and the guts to play," Perry said.

Janzen, winless since his second U.S. Open title at The Olympic Club in 1998, holed out from a bunker for the third time in two days, but he missed several birdie opportunities on the back nine and closed with a 72.

Perry became the sixth player this year with multiple victories, and the oldest player since Irwin (45) in 1990 to win back-to-back on the PGA Tour.

Do we get a free car wash with every fill up?



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By Kevin Kilgore

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